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Removal of untouchability.

* 1437 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) the results achieved by spending about Rs. 2 lakhs for the removal of untouchability in the year 1953–54; and

(*b*) the aid given and the programme of work suggested by the Government of India to this State in respect of the removal of untouchability during the year 1954–55?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) Six hundred and six multi-purpose cement platforms to serve as community centres for Harijan families in villages were constructed at a total cost of Rs. 1,98,432;

" (*b*) a grant-in-aid of Rs. 38,000 has been sanctioned by the Government of India for 1954–55. No definite programme was suggested by the Government of India. However, they indicated that the programme might include the following items :—

(1) Holding of social melas aimed at educating public and awakening scheduled castes;

(2) issuing appropriate posters for display at public places like Post offices, schools, libraries, Railway stations, etc.;

(3) printing of small pamphlets and booklets publicising relevant provisions of the Constitution on the subject; describing present conditions of the Scheduled castes, and the efforts being made by Government to eradicate the evil of untouchability in all forms; and

(4) showing of cinema slides;

(5) other modes of publicity;

(6) provision of wells, facilities for education and assistance towards construction of houses and starting of cottage industries and aid to voluntary agencies and other miscellaneous assistance to Harijans."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" Sir, even among Caste Hindus there is untouchability. For instance, it is practised among Brahmins and non-Brahmins and also among Madathipathis and their devotees. Would any amount from this 2 lakhs be spent for the purpose of removing such untouchability?"

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I do not think that there is anything like untouchability amongst Caste Hindus. They may be caste differences."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" In the long list of items in the programme enunciated by the Hon. Minister, I find only ineffective remedies suggested. Now the question is, how far results have been achieved in the matter of the removal of untouchability. Under the Constitution, untouchability is abolished and it should not be practised in any form whatsoever. May I know how many prosecutions were launched by the Government against the offenders who had prevented Harijans from entering tanks, hotels,

cinemas and temples under the Constitution or under the Removal of Civil Disabilities Act. The launching of prosecutions against the offenders would be a more effective step for the removal of untouchability? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The question relates to the grant given by the Government of India and the result achieved by spending that amount. I have already stated that Rs. 38,000 had been spent on the construction of cement platforms. We expected Rs. 1 lakh from the Government of India but we got only Rs. 38,000 and we spent the entire amount on the construction of platforms. That is the result."

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN :—" Instead of taking steps to remove the untouchability of the Harijans, will the Government consider the desirability of taking suitable steps to remove the 'touch-me-not-ism' of the Caste Hindus? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I think it is better to fight the removal of untouchability amongst untouchables than the untouchability that exists between Caste Hindus and the so-called Scheduled Castes or Depressed Classes, whatever you may call them."

SRI T. ANANTA PAI :—" Untouchability is essentially a social attitude and I am afraid the construction of platforms or the provision of other amenities for Harijans is not going to improve their condition. While all these amenities may be necessary for the Harijans, a proper atmosphere should be created by the Government for the purpose of making the Caste Hindus and the Harijans to move freely among themselves. Unless such an attitude is adopted, we cannot remove untouchability by the mere provision of amenities? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Out of the Rs. 38,000 granted by the Government of India, it is humanly impossible to carry out the suggestions made by the Government of India. We are expecting Rs. 6 lakhs by way of grant from them for the execution of the programme suggested by them. As soon as we get it, we shall try to see that Harijans and Caste Hindus mix freely among themselves and every attempt will be made towards that end."

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" The Government of India have suggested a very comprehensive programme with a small grant. Have the Government given consideration to the priority which should be given to the various steps suggested by the Government of India? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Sir, even if we had distributed the amount of Rs. 38,000 for various items suggested by the Government of India, we would not have been able to spend more than two or three thousand rupees on each item. So we had to spend the entire amount on the construction of platforms. Since the Government of India had sanctioned the amount so late at the fag end of the year,

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we thought it would be better to utilise it. Instead of keeping it, we spent it on the construction of cement platforms, expecting that a further amount promised by them would be coming to us. Therefore, we could not distribute the amount on various items as suggested by them.''

Chimeni-Kannamkai road.

* 1438 *Q.*—Sri M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) the present stage of the construction of the Chimeni-Kannamkai road in South Kanara district; and

(*b*) when the work is likely to be completed?

The Hon. Sri S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—'' (*a*) Out of a total length of seven miles and two furlongs of the road a length of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles has been formed, $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile is under formation and the remaining portion is yet to be taken up.

'' (*b*) During 1955–56.''

Sri M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—'' Sir, there is slow progress of the work for want of proper directions and departmental instructions. Will the Government make the necessary enquiry in the matter and see why proper directions and departmental instructions were not made? ''

The Hon. Sri S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—'' The slow progress is not due to lack of proper supervision or direction but is due to insufficient allotment of grant.''

Statues of Britishers in Madras City.

* 1439 *Q.*—Sri N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon the 9 a.m.
Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to remove the statues and other relics of the British Rule from public places in Madras City; and

(*b*) if so, what they are?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' (*a*) There is no such proposal at present.

'' (*b*) Does not arise.''

Sri N. K. PALANISAMY :—'' 1937-ம் வருஷத்தில் காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபை இந்த ராஜ்யத்தில் ஏற்பட்ட காலத்தில் அடிமைத்தனத்தின் அறிகுறியாக நீலன் சிலை இருக்கக்கூடாதென்று அதை அகற்றி மியூஸியத்திற்கு அனுப்பிவைத்தார்கள். நாடு சுதந்திரம் அடைந்த பிறகும் இன்னும் அநேக வெள்ளைக்கார கவர்னர்களின் சிலை எங்கு பார்த்தாலும் இருக்கின்றன. அதோடு 1954-ம் வருஷம் ஆகஸ்டு 15-ந் தேதியன்று சுதந்திர தினத்தன்று அவைகளுக்கு எல்லாம் மாலைகள் சூட்டப்பட்டன. இப்படி நம்முடைய அடிமைத்தனத்தின் அறிகுறியாக இருக்கின்ற இவற்றை எல்லாம் உடனடியாக அவ்விடங்களிலிருந்து அப்புறப் படுத்தி. மியூஸியத்திலாவது கொண்டுபோட சர்க்கார் ஏற்பாடு செய்வார்களா ? ''